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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

Wednesday, April 24, 1940

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "HOW TO SAVE A RUG." Information from the Bureau of Home Economics and the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U.S.D.A.

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Somebody ought to start a Be-Kind-To-the-Rug Society. Of all the furnishings in the house the rug generally has the toughest time. The rug has to lie there day after day having grit ground into it, feet marching over it, food spilled on it, and furniture poking into it. Some rugs endure even more than this. Some take a beating or a shaking regularly. And many a rug has to put up with moths and carpet beetles.

One of these bright spring days you may suddenly notice your best rug looks shabby. And you'll say: "Why, the idea! I paid a lot for that rug. The salesman told me it would last a lifetime. And here it's wearing out already."

Maybe that's not the rug's fault but your own. Maybe your treatment of the rug caused it to wear out early. If you were a member of the Be-Kind-To-the-Rug Society, you'd know all the secrets of caring for the rug so it would last long and keep its good looks.

To begin with you'd know the secrets of cleaning a rug safely. You'd know that a vacuum cleaner saves the rug by drawing out the dirt and grit that cuts into the fiber, and also the insects that might damage the rug. Of all the ways of removing dirt from a rug, vacuum cleaning is probably the easiest on the rug.

Here are a couple of points about cleaning by vacuum. The cleaner can't do a good job unless the nozzle is the proper height above the rug. Some of the new cleaners have nozzles that adjust automatically. Others you have to adjust. Here's how to see whether the nozzle is near enough the rug. Place a dime on the rug about a foot from the nozzle. Start the cleaner running and keep moving the nozzle up and



down until the dime dances and moves toward it.

Another point to remember is that a vacuum cleaner needs a clean bag to do a good job. A clean bag allows for much more pull. You see, the bag acts as a filter catching the dirt and letting out the air that the fan draws through the nozzle. If the pores of the bag are all clogged with dirt, that cuts down the flow of air. So empty the bag often, and every few weeks at least, brush the dust from the inside of the bag.

A carpet sweeper is a help in getting up litter from rugs. Many housewives like a carpet sweeper for picking up crumbs from the dining room rug. And, many housewives still use brooms to clean rugs. If you rely on a broom, be sure the straws are soft and pliable. A stiff stubby broom is hard on a rug, especially a rug with a deep velvety pile.

Whether you clean with a vacuum or a broom, here are a couple of rug-saving points. Move across the rug crosswise, not lengthwise. That saves strain on the warp threads of the rug that are most important in holding it together.

Be sure to clean the under side of the rug frequently for dirt works through and insects are likely to hide underneath.

Beating and shaking are rougher methods of getting out dust than vacuum cleaning and they are naturally harder on the rug. Beating loosens the tufts of the pile and may injure the backing of the rug. But if you must beat, use a rattan instead of a wire beater. And if you must shake, shake only the small rugs. In shaking hold the rug by the side, not the end, to keep the crosswise threads from pulling apart.

Once a year at least a rug needs either dry cleaning or a soap-and-water washing. Genuine Oriental rugs and certain other high-priced rugs contain no "sizing" or stiffening so will wash successfully. But for most other rugs dry cleaning is the safe method of cleaning.

But proper cleaning is not the only way to save a rug. A full-size cushion or pad underneath adds years of wear to the rug besides making it feel extra soft and



luxurious and making the room quieter and warmer. Rough or uneven floors are always hard on rugs. On such floors pads under rugs are a necessity.

Turn and turn about helps save the rug, too. If the shape of the room allows it, turn your rug end for end every few months. Then the heavy traffic won't wear out one part of the rug while the rest is still new.

Sharp, rough or heavy legs of furniture can make permanent marks and eventually holes in a rug. Turn up your furniture and feel its feet. If those feet are rough, sandpaper them smooth. And use glass furniture rests under the legs of all heavy furniture.

Watch out for doors that don't clear rugs. A door that sticks on the rug is not only a nuisance but will soon leave its mark on the rug. Get your husband to use a plane on the bottom of that door.

The dining room rug, or the rug under a desk is constantly in danger of spots. One way to save the rug in the dining room is to brush up the crumbs after each meal before the greasy or sticky crumbs have a chance to work into the rug. And take up spilled food immediately with a damp cloth. Under the baby's highchair have a piece of oilcloth or linoleum to protect the rug. At the desk washable ink is a rug-saver especially in homes where there are children.

As for burns, tears or snags in the rug, you'll be wise to have them mended at once before the edges become frayed and the threads pulled apart. Almost every city nowadays has a good rug-mending company.

Well, there are a few of the commonsense ways of saving your rug. Further information on cleaning rugs you will find in the new housecleaning bulletin which is free from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. And further information on protecting your rugs from moths and carpet beetles is also free from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.



